

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, GENEVA**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**19<sup>TH</sup> SESSION (27 Feb -23 Mar 2012)**

**Agenda Item 2: General Debate on HC/SG Thematic Reports**

**(2 Mar 2012)**

**Statement by India**

Madam President,

We thank the High Commissioner, Ms Navanethem Pillay, for her Report on the composition of the staff of OHCHR pursuant to the Council resolution 16/10 and would like to confine our remarks to this Report.

Madam President,

2. We appreciate the efforts of the High Commissioner to improve geographical diversity in OHCHR and are encouraged to note that this issue remains one of her priorities. We also take positive note of the High Commissioner's commitment to continue to pay special attention to gender balance and the progress as mentioned in paragraph 16.

3. Nevertheless, Madam President remain concerned at some aspects of the issue and would like to make the following observations:

- a) One, we remain deeply concerned that even eight years after Recommendation 8 of the JIU report 2003/6, that was reiterated in the JIU report 2006/3; the OHCHR still does *not* have any *specific targets and deadlines* to reduce the imbalance in geographical distribution of staff. This was acknowledged in paragraph 13 of the last JIU report 2009/2 itself which also made it its Recommendation 1. To this end, we would request the High Commissioner to share information about her plans to formulate specific targets and deadlines on this issue;

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

- b) Two, we would like to seek clarification on how the data table on page 4 of the Report, which shows 47.3% of the Office are from the Western Europe and other region aligns itself with what has been stated in paragraph 11 that 34 countries that include at least 16 countries from the Western Europe and other Region are underrepresented.
- c) Three, the Report omits to discuss the issue of the highly skewed trend in the recruitment of Associate Experts or Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) – an issue that had been examined in the last JIU report. We would, therefore, request the High Commissioner to share information on how she plans to address this issue;

3. In conclusion Madam President, we would like to reiterate that while we recognize and value the need to maintain competence, efficiency and integrity of the OHCHR, surely these attributes cannot be presumed to be limited to one geographical region.

Thank you, Madam President.